[illegible] had made the astounding declaration to the Chamber, where it was received by [illegible] votes to none on the 8th. The amendments affected the following articles of the Constitution:

Article 1. References to the Mandatory Power and the League of Nations were eliminated, and Lebanon was described as "a sovereign State".

Article 11. French was no longer described as an official language.

Article 52. The treaty-making power was no longer to be limited by the reservations laid down in the Mandate.

Articles 94-95. These were annulled. They had provided that the exercise of the constitutional powers of Lebanon authorities should be subject to the maintenance of the Mandatory's rights and obligations; that Lebanon should eventually enter the League of Nations through the good offices of the Mandatory; that good relations would be maintained with the neighbouring countries under French Mandate; that disputes liable to lead to war should be submitted to the Mandatory's arbitration; and that agreements would be reached between Lebanon and France for the representation of the former, in countries where Lebanese subjects were numerous, by means of attachés to French diplomatic and consular missions.

Articles 95 and 101. References to the Mandate were omitted.

On November 11th, two days after the passage of these amendments through the Chamber, M. Bishara returned from a visit to Egypt. In the early hours of the following morning the Lebanese President and the majority of the Ministers were, by his order, arrested and removed from Beirut. A few hours later the Delegate-General issued decrees declaring the amendments null and void, suspending the Constitution, dissolving the Chamber and appointing Emile Eddé—Bishara al-Khuri's unrelenting opponent in the recent elections—as Head of the State and the Government.

These measures caused immediate and vigorous reactions, both in Lebanon and elsewhere. Throughout the next eleven days there was a general strike in the Lebanese towns; shops were shut, the ordinary newspapers ceased to appear and there were demonstrations in the streets. These led to clashes with

[illegible]

French troops, and to the death or injury of a number of [illegible] civilians. The two Ministers who had not been arrested, [illegible] together with a majority of the Deputies, continued to exercise their authority from a secondary centre and began to organize an armed force.

During these critical days the Lebanese people displayed [illegible] striking unity. The national cause took precedence over [illegible] sectarian conflicts, and very few were among the Moslems who dissociated themselves from the united front. Even Sabri Hamadé, a political soldier, and was forced to attempt the expedient of a council of civil servants.

Nevertheless, the country remained agreatly calm. The [illegible] the Lebanese did not resort to an armed rising was due to [illegible] large part to the confidence of their leaders in the value of the diplomatic support which they received from the Governments of the independent Arab States, of the United States and of Great Britain. The British attitude was defined by Mr. Lyttelton in the House of Commons on November 23rd:-

> "The interest of His Majesty's Government in this dispute is twofold. First of all, we have endorsed the promises of independence given to the Lebanese people by General Catroux in 1941. His Majesty's Government have followed with sympathy and interest the subsequent development of constitutional government in the Lebanon. Secondly, the Lebanon is of vital importance to the war effort both as an operational base and from the point of view of communications. Any threat of a breakdown of law and order is therefore of direct concern to His Majesty's Government."

Impressed by the gravity of the situation created by M. [illegible] Helleu's drastic action, the C.F.L.N. sent General Catroux to [illegible] take charge in Beirut. He arrived there on the 19th and, having examined the situation in all its aspects, recommended the reinstatement of the Lebanese President, the release of the imprisoned Ministers and the recall of M. Helleu. Acceptance of this programme was announced in Algiers on the 20th, and on the following day the Lebanese leaders returned to Beirut in triumph. It was at once apparent that the reinstatement of the Ministers, as well as of the President, was inevitable, and the French authorities agreed to this further concession. Furthermore, M. Chataigneau, who had provisionally taken M. Helleu's place as Delegate-General, cancelled the decree